



Ups & Downs

Pyecombe G C

Newsletter

May / June 2015

No 142

Editor Alf Bickham

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

The calendar is now up and running and what a busy time it has been.

Firstly I would like to welcome our new professional Mike Ovet and his assistants to our club. His start seems to be working extremely well. As for the golf we have just had the Club Championship and well done to all that played. Congratulations to both Duncan Scott and Graham Farmer, winners of the scratch and net scores.

What a fantastic year for the girls and of course Aileen. Good luck to division 3 girls in the next round and also to our mail on Sunday team.

Sadly our Optimus and Birchwood teams were knocked out in the last round but only by the away rule for the scratch and one point for the Birchwood boys, keep up the good work for next year. Our MSL teams are fighting hard and again produced a very creditable draw against Worthing.

We had a good turnout for the new members evening and thank you all for turning up and

having a good night plus thank you again for all the positive feedback and not forgetting the staff who gave up there time.

What's coming up? We have the MAD dinner and then golf on the 10th and 11th of July; it is so pleasing that we are almost full for this great function. This is followed by the Ladies' Captain's days on the 12th and 14th July.

Captain's day this year is on the 2nd of August and I look forward to welcoming as many members as possible. We will have a great day and so that prizes can be presented this year without potential winners having to hang around, the presentation will be held back to Gala day on the 8th August when winners will be asked to turn up late afternoon so that we can carry out the two presentations at the same time which makes sense to me at least.

There will be a proper Hog Roast and I can ensure you that all members not just seven day members are invited to play.

We will be having street stalls, a putting.....
(Continued on next page)

MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

Leave in the Office with the Secretary or in an envelope in the foyer marked for the attention of Alf Bickham / Newsletter or send Alf an Email message to his Email address of: alf@abickham.freeserve.co.uk or to make contact by telephone, call him at home, **Tel. No. 01444.242101**

CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Continuation)

.....competition, chipping master class, hopefully Morris Dancers, bunting tug of war, and then all members will have the opportunity to put the Management committee in the stocks for a good soaking. All you need to do is come up with the bounty placed on each committee member. All money raised will be going to the charities of the captains which I do hope you agree is a great cause. The draw sheet for captain's day is up on the captain's board which can be found in the bar area. Please look

out for the WANTED POSTERS of the MC which will be put up next week with the draw sheet for gala day.

Finally I would like to thank all of the members and staff who have shown great support and kindness in my year so far. It has made all the difference.

Mike Willmott

LADIES REPORT

It seems that July is the most hectic month of the year for the Lady Captain with so much golf! Four days of play for me this week, including 36 holes at Singing Hills with Mike and the Vice Captains, and I am now trying to recover!

I am so proud of all of our Ladies' teams this year! Their commitment and golfing skill has taken us through to the quarter-finals of Division 1, Division 111 and the Morrice Foursomes – a brilliant achievement, very well played ladies. The first of the knock out rounds will be the Division III match at Ifield on Thursday 9th July and I wish them all good luck – play well and enjoy yourselves. Division 1 will play their quarters on the 23rd July and the Morrice Foursomes will be decided at the end of August.

Earlier in June the Ladies played the Summer Cup, reverting back to the original format of a 36 hole competition played over a weekend. The weather was kind to us, apart from a strong breeze on the Saturday, and Lesley Fallowfield won the handicap trophy with a nett score of 148 for the 36 holes. Jo Galway took the new scratch trophy, presented by Bea Janes in memory of her sister, Glenda Ricketts, with a total score of 167.

On a very warm day last Tuesday we played our ladies 36 hole championship. The course was at its most challenging, with the tees on the back markers and lots of the flags at the back of the greens. As if that wasn't enough – the recent dry weather meant that it was very difficult to land the ball on the green and hold it there. No surprises on the results of the championship though - Aileen won for the 34th time, with a gross score of 149. Aileen is truly amazing. She won her first championship when she was 16 years old, and apart from the following year, has won it every year since! She also won the net trophy scoring 148 and beating Abbie Bates by one shot. **(See Report to Press on following page)**

I am holding my Captain's days next Sunday (12th July) and the following Tuesday. I have my fingers crossed that the fine weather will continue until then. The following week we will play our Absent Friends competitions in memory of golfing friends who are no longer with us.

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LADIES REPORT (continued)

The week after that on Tuesday 28th July we have our Ladies Invitation Day and I'm pleased to say that we have a large field for the day with most of our ladies bringing one or two guests.

I wish Mike Willmott a very happy and successful Captain's Day on the 2nd August. The weekend after that will be the Gala Day when we play for the Chris White Trophy. The planning for these important club events is well advanced and they both look to be days of great golf and lots of fun. I would encourage everyone to sign up and to give these great club days their full support. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Mary Barnard
Lady Captain

PYECOMBE GC LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP

(Report sent to Press)

Competitors in the ladies' championship at Pyecombe on 30th June had to contend with very high temperatures and unpredictable bounces as the course is drying out fast.

The day was dominated by an outstanding performance by Aileen Greenfield, now aged 50 and entering her 'seniors' golf career. She won the championship this year for the 34th time, in a phenomenal demonstration of staying power. It's not that there are no likely contenders at Pyecombe, where there are at least seven other single-figure ladies. Captain Mary Barnard said in her tribute, "she is the best golfer Sussex has ever had".



**Aileen Greenfield (L) receives the Champion's trophy
from Lady Captain Mary Barnard**

Aileen, whose husband and elder son also play off similar low handicaps, was on the winning side at the County Championships last week when they won at Worthing. She was tied first (and lost in the play-off) in her first attempt at the England Seniors' Open at Broadstone, and she won the seniors' trophy in the county championship at Ifield, losing that championship only at the last hurdle to someone half her age.

Result: Championship Cup (36-hole medal) – **Aileen Greenfield** (hcp 1) gross score 149.

Runner up – **Jo Galway** (hcp 4) with 157.

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PYECOMBE GC LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP (Continuation)

Other results in the club championship:

Best net score – Aileen Greenfield with nett 74 & 73

Runner up – Abbie Bates, nett 74 +74

Best morning net score – Aileen Greenfield 74

Best p.m. net score – Kirsten Redmore 71

The Joanna Greenstreet trophy (one round) - Bron Morley Runner up – Kathy Sage

Best score by a past captain – Bron Morley.

Lowest number of putts for morning round: Aileen Greenfield with 27.

The President reflects

Thankfully the weather was pretty good for this year's Ladies President's Trophy, albeit there was quite a chilly breeze at times. This was the 20th time the event had been staged since being inaugurated by my predecessor, Ken Barnard in 1996. Most of the ladies got away on time (probably because I had the whip out!!) with only two that I can remember trying to imitate my lifetime habit of faffing about before deciding to tee off! However, it was pleasing to see all the drives go straight down the middle which makes a change from the games I usually play in!

My thanks go to Pam Perry for overcoming her disappointment at not playing in the event due to the non show of her partner Doreen Shafer, but nevertheless marking the card of her playing partners. We subsequently learned that the Shafers were stranded at the end of their holiday in Madeira due to planes being grounded due to a Sahara type dust fog that enveloped the Island for several days!

Competition for the Trophy proved very tight indeed. In third place with a score of 74 were Jamie Blades and Barbara Lawden on countback from Sheila McNeill and Helen Woodcock-Downey. But the winners with 73.5, again on countback, from Celia Schultz and Sally Flood were Pat Webb and Chris Gunn. Ladies with sharp memories will recall that Pat also won the trophy last year in company with Helen WD.!



Winner's Presentation

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The President reflects (Continuation)

Unfortunately, I was not able to witness the exciting tussle for the Men's Championship this year but I would like to add my "congrats" in saluting a new name on the honours board – very well done Duncan Scott! And to a competition in which I used to have a more realistic chance, well done to Graham Farmer for lifting the "net" trophy, the Warren Cup – the cup is quite huge and you should allow about 2 to 3 days when it needs a clean Graham!

Talking of Champions, Aileen G (can't mention the surname – it crops up endlessly in both the female and male worlds!) has won the Ladies Club Championship for the umpteenth time. Surely she must be heading for a mention in that traditional Irish brown drink Book of Records? What a credit all the G's are to our Club with their numerous achievements – both at PGC but also at County and National level. I'm sure the 'boys' won't begrudge 'Mother Hen' (as Aileen calls herself in the County Team), pride of place for her many successes.

Reg Auchterlonie

ON THE COURSE May - June

With the new 9th Tee areas now in full use, the tee surfaces are excellent, the surrounding banks however, have had poor germination of the seed, due to weather conditions we are all aware of. These will probably have to be re seeded in Autumn, some growth is apparent, but we will have to bear an untidier appearance of those areas for the present than we would like.

The other area attracting much comment are the trial areas of rough on the 7th and 17th fairway bunkers, or as I call them "The Marmite Bunkers" it is love or hate here. They are a trial, we will monitor feedback through the Green Committee, which comprises Ladies and Vets Captains, Captain and Vice, new Pro, Head of Golf and Head Greenkeeper, so a good cross section of all sections of the club. We shall tweak them in due course to see if we can come up with something that improves the visual appearance of the course, but is not too penal a hazard. A final decision will then be made later on.

The new path matting to the 14th is being left as long as possible to establish, to give it the best possible chance of remaining in good condition, when we most need it in the winter months, again growth could have been better here, even though we have been fertilising and hand watering.

After various comment, criticism and suggestion about the course from a few members, I would like to make aware the existence of The PGC Course Management Policy Document. This document was formulated by a previous Chair of Green and the Head Greenkeeper. It was adopted by the club at Management Committee in 2003. The document describes the way the golf course is managed within the club rules and the greenkeeping standards and methods on which the maintenance and development of the course is based. It describes height of cuts for example to all areas, which order the greens are cut in. It is the parameters within which the Head Greenkeeper works in every area of the course. Most of the maintenance information in it was transferred

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ON THE COURSE (Continuation)

..... to the club website in my previous time in office, so it could be accessed by all who are interested. It can be found under the Course heading on the website toolbar, then, Maintenance FAQ.

I know we are all budding Head Greenkeepers, after all, cutting the back lawn and a twice yearly application of weed and feed gives us a far greater knowledge and insight into greenkeeping, than one of the most highly respected Head Greenkeepers in the area, who cut his teeth at Walton Heath, also an assessor for Plumpton College I might add and well into his third decade in the trade. Have a look at the FAQ section, it may be of interest, it may enlighten and explain why we do things the way we do out there.

And finally I thought I would talk rubbish. Aha I hear you say, you always do. Well rubbish bins actually. The boomerang argument about whether we need more bins on the course. I personally like to keep tee furniture, signage, bins, etc, to a minimum, as I prefer the natural uncluttered look. One of my favourite courses when touring is The Astbury, near Bridgenorth. A newish course 2011 I believe, boasts Darren Clarke and Sky's Sarah Stirk as ambassadors, and tops the review site tables for the West Midlands regularly. No tee furniture, no bins, no benches, not even ball washers, only a single finger oak yardage marker post and tee markers. What surprised me was that on four separate visits this year, I have never seen any litter at all on a course, which is generally packed to the gunwales and frequented almost exclusively by green fees and societies, no member section.

This would support the view that people, I believe, will act responsibly and take litter away with them. It also cuts greenkeepers time emptying rubbish bins, probably saves costs on generating larger amounts of rubbish for disposal, rubbish blowing around if the bin gets full premature and improves the aesthetic of the course. Whilst I think The Astbury policy is rather severe, I believe our present balance at PGC is probably about right. I rarely use the bins, tuck my litter, drinks bottle in my bag and dispose of it at home. I don't regard that as an inconvenience. Do we need more bins, maybe not!

Enjoy your golf

Gary Hann
Chair of Green

VETERANS SECTION

The Vets got into trouble away to Mannings Heath on 19th May with a 7 to 1 loss under stand-in Vice Captain Chris Muschamp (not his fault of course), an honourable mention however for the only winning pairing of Graham Tate and Peter Ferns. To make up for that we posted our first (he said hopefully) away win of the season at East Brighton on 22 May with a positive result of 3 ½ to 2 ½. Unfortunately this was rapidly followed by an away whitewash losing 7 to 0 at Willingdon on 27 May. Of course if it had been the full 8 teams we would have done better (perhaps).

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VETERANS SECTION (Continuation)

The match against Eastbourne Downs at home on 29th May was much closer, despite the squally showers and howling gale. The Vets managed to only lose by 5 to 3, and the pairing of Vets Captain Geoff Webb with Peter Moore gave the Eastbourne Captain his first defeat of the season.

Back to business then with a loss away to The Nevill on 5th June by 5 to 1; the whitewash only saved by David Brown and David Taylor, who was thereby forgiven for turning up at Pyecombe for an away match. Things started to look up with a 5 to 1 home win against Ham Manor on 8 June, only to go down again with a home defeat by the Dyke by 5 to 3 on 15 June, up again with a home win over Willingdon on 29 June by an unusual 6 to 1 and finally what felt almost a win with only a loss by 3 ½ to 2 ½ at Ham Manor away on July 1st.

On June 1st the Vets kicked off summer with the Dancy Trophy, a medal competition, which was one by one of our newest Vets, Bob Gunston, playing in his first competition with a net 73 on countback over one who has been a Vet for rather longer, Chris Openshaw. Unfortunately our run of bad weather for competitions continued with the Chevalier Spoons having to be postponed until August. No-one can say the Vets are hardy and willing to go out in all weathers.

Geoff Webb
Vet's Captain

FROM THE NEW PROFESSIONAL



Introducing Michael Overtt. Michael is the new professional Pyecombe golf club. He is pictured above (centre) with his team of Chris O'Connor, (left), and Mark James, (right).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who have wished me well since my return to Pyecombe golf club, amazingly it has been 5 weeks since I started. The warmth of the welcome has been very touching and reminded me of the great club I left 13 years ago, it has felt like a home coming. Playing the golf course again has highlighted to me how much I love the club and what a special place it already holds within my heart.

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FROM THE NEW PROFESSIONAL (Continuation)

Also, thank you to everyone’s positive comments regarding the changes to the Pro-Shop. I would like to thank Mark Bailey (and his team), Trevor Greenfield and Andy Taylor for all their assistance through the set-up period.

I will do everything within my power to provide you the best possible Pro-Shop and service going forward. Please do not hesitate to ask if the Pro-Shop team can improve your membership or the game we love in any way.

Custom Fitting

Thinking of new club?

I have the latest technology for Club Fitting (Flightscope) for any member interested in new clubs. Please take advantage of this free custom fit session available to all members of the golf club – normally £35.

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FROM THE NEW PROFESSIONAL (Continued)

I hold custom fitting stock / demo product for Callaway and Titleist at Pyecombe and have further custom fit product for Ping and Taylormade available.

If you would like to try something we don’t have in stock, please ask.

Please visit my website for a full list of all the services we are able to offer mikeovettgolf.co.uk

Current Special Offers:

Srixon Golf Balls

Srixon Z Star and AD33 Tours – Buy 3 sleeves and receive 1 sleeve free of charge

Cleveland Wedge

Buy One Cleveland RTG 588 Wedge and receive 50% off a second

Buy Two Cleveland RTG 588 Wedges and receive a third free of charge

Ladies Clothing Sale

Ladies JRB Summer Clothing Sale – Now in stock

Mike Ovett

